



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ground Broken for U.S. 101 Marin Sonoma Narrows Project

Novato – Caltrans broke ground today on the first phase of the Marin Sonoma Narrows Project on U.S Route 101.

The \$50 million project will build a new carpool lane in each direction on U.S. Route 101. The three mile northbound lane will run from State Route 37 in the south to Atherton Avenue in the north. The one and a half mile southbound lane will run from Novato Creek in the north to State Route 37 in the south. Both carpool lanes will connect with existing carpool lanes that currently extend from State Route 37 south to State Route 1. Construction is expected to last two years.

This project is the first of many that will widen U.S. Route 101 from Novato to Petaluma. Known as "The Narrows" for its reduction to just two lanes, this segment of highway has historically experienced heavy congestion. Other segments of "The Narrows" are still in a conventional highway with no on or off ramps. Drivers instead turn directly onto the highway from side street intersections.

"Today marks the first step in providing uninterrupted carpool lanes between the counties of Marin and Sonoma. This first phase of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows widening brings us closer to reduced congestion, reduced vehicle emissions and increased safety along this highway," said Caltrans Acting Director Malcolm Dougherty.

Of the \$50 million allocated for this project, \$31 million came from Proposition 1B bonds.

In addition to the new carpool lanes, the project will also bring several improvements to the nearby wildlife areas.

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